



Belfast Bay
Watershed

BELFAST BAY WATERSHED NEWS

Bird Day at Searsport Elementary School



On February 12, four BBWC volunteer educators affiliated with the Maine Master Naturalist Program offered Bird Day at Searsport Elementary School to 45 kindergartners and their teachers. Children rotated through four stations. Deb Smith taught about owls, showing real stuffed owls, owl pellets, and reconstructed skeletons of rodents found in the pellets. Pictured above are owl masks she helped the children make. Beth Henderson, a sculptor, taught about the many properties of feathers, followed by a cardinal feather making activity. Beth will assemble a large cardinal sculpture of all the feathers for the school. Mike Shannon demonstrated the diversity and specialization of eyes, ears, wings, feet, and beaks with his stuffed bird collection. Cloe Chunn invited each child to "be" a bird, learn its song, and identify each other by songs. This was the kick-off for a week of bird study for the youngsters.

Hills to Sea Trail is Finding its Path

On February 13, ten of the Hills to Sea Trail Blazers snowshoed from Frye Mountain Road through the Game Preserve to Rt. 137. Pictured below is an enjoyable side trip to Mixer Pond to admire two long established beaver lodges. While snowshoeing to the beaver dam, Helen took a swim, but quickly recovered and continued to enjoy the day's outing.

The long-range goal is a trail across Waldo County from Belfast Bay to Unity. So far, we are not to the stage of blazing yet. We are just Pathfinders!

Photo: Janet Williams Pictured left to right:

Doug VanHorn, Helen Burlingame, Dennis Harrington, Ridgely Fuller, Bob Kohl, Cloe Chunn, Skip Pendleton, Dick Merrick, Dick Warren.



Belfast Bay Watershed Coalition

P.O. Box 152, Belfast, ME 04915

www.belfastbaywatershed.org

Bird Bus Rides Again!

Seth Benz is back with 2014 Bird Bus tours in collaboration with the YMCA. Each trip explores a section of northern Penobscot Bay between Stockton Springs and Rockland, depending on where the birds are! Seth will share field techniques, species identification, and natural history information. Hear the latest on conservation and bird research.

Dress for the weather, bring binoculars and water. One restroom stop is included. Minimum of 15 participants needed. The bus departs Waldo County YMCA promptly at 8:30 am.

Friday, March 14, 8:30-11:30.

Friday, April 11, 8:30-11:30.

Friday, May 9, 8:30-11:30.

Fee: \$15 per trip. Register one week (or more) before the trip you want, in order to make it happen.

Head-of-Tide Quest Adventure

Saturday, May 3, 10:00-11:30 am.

Coastal Mountains Land Trust will launch the third quest in a series of Land Trust quests. Children and families are invited to join and follow clues through the preserve and learn lots of things about nature. The Quest was created by Cheryl Morin of the Maine Master Naturalist Program.

Evening Programs at the Belfast Library

Our educational programs are offered on Thursday evenings once per month in the Abbott Room. Programs are free and open to all.

Please note: The May 15 program is not at the library; rather, it is at Belfast Cohousing and Ecovillage.

March 20, 6:30 pm. Natural History of the Maine Coast

Sarah O'Malley, professor, Maine Maritime Academy and Maine Master Naturalist, will use landscapes near her home to illustrate the general geology and natural history of the Maine Coast.

April 17, 6:30 pm. Butterflies, Their Life Cycles, Attracting and Photographing Them

Roger Rittmaster, Maine Master Naturalist, will show his amazing photos of these jewels of spring and summer.

May 15, 6:30 pm. Tour the Belfast Cohousing and Ecovillage with Coleen O'Connell and learn how it came to be. Meet at the Cohousing on Village Road, off Tufts Road, which is off of Edgecomb Road. Call 338-1147 for directions.

Maine Master Naturalist Program begins new class in June

The 2014-15 class of the Maine Master Naturalist Program will be offered at Viles Arboretum in Augusta. To learn more or print an application, visit www.mainemasternaturalist.org

Deadline for applications is March 15.



PENOBSCOT BAY STEWARDS PROGRAM

Tuesdays and Thursdays in May



This *free* program introduces participants to Penobscot Bay history, marine life, coastal habitats, island ecology, geology, Native Americans, fisheries, water quality, and conservation issues through twice-weekly presentations and field trips. Participants are then expected to volunteer 30 hours to a conservation organization or project.

Application deadline: April 1

More information and applications are available at www.belfastbaywatershed.org or by contacting Maynard at 338-8666 or Karin at 322-5545.



The Penobscot Bay Stewards Program is sponsored by the Belfast Bay Watershed Coalition and the Maine Coastal Program of the Maine State Planning Office.

2014 Penobscot Bay Stewards Program APPLICATION

Please attach an additional sheet of paper, if necessary.

Name: _____
Address: _____
Telephone numbers: _____
E-mail: _____

How did you hear about Penobscot Bay Stewards?

Why are you interested in becoming a Penobscot Bay Steward?

What is your related background and experience include formal and informal training and experience?

What are your skills and interests?

_____ computers	_____ marine science	_____ fundraising
_____ editing/writing	_____ public speaking	_____ photography
_____ working with children	_____ graphic arts	_____ mapping
_____ naturalist activities	_____ teaching	_____ organizing
_____ other: _____		

Please describe your current and previous volunteer activities, including involvement in other organizations.

Do you have any physical limitation that could affect your participation in program activities?

References (Please provide two, and include all information requested.)

Name: 1. _____ 2. _____
Phone number: _____
Relationship: _____

The Penobscot Bay Stewards are volunteers who learn about the natural and cultural elements that shape the Penobscot Bay region and turn this awareness into action. Thirty hours of volunteer service are required of each Steward.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

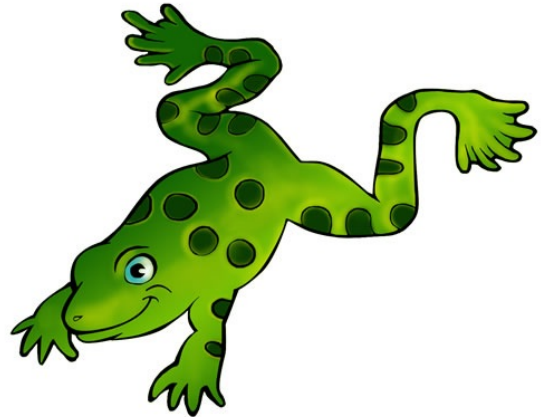
APPLICATION DEADLINE: APRIL 1, 2014

Belfast Bay Watershed Coalition, P. O. Box 152, Belfast, ME 04915 ♦ www.belfastbaywatershed.org

Do You Love Frogs?

*Want to Take Care of them and Help them?
Join us and become a frog monitor and citizen scientist
with FrogWatch USA*

The training is FREE! No expertise needed.
Choose 1 of 3 opportunities to be trained to monitor
frogs.



In Belfast:

Date: March 27, Thursday, 5:00-8:30 pm, Belfast Free Library, 106 High Street

In Holden, near Brewer: March 29, Saturday. Fields Pond Audubon Center

Time: 9:00-12:30 for volunteer monitor training

1:00-4:30 for chapter coordinator training

In Liberty: May 31, Saturday, 9:00 am-12:30 pm

Place: Liberty Library, next to Liberty Tool on Rt. 173

To sign up: Call Faith Hague, 236-2958, or email faithhague@gmail.com

Trainers: Gary Gulezian and Cloe Chunn

Sponsored by Belfast Bay Watershed Coalition and FrogWatchUSA

Signs of the Seasons

**Tuesday, March 25, 1:00-3:30 pm, UMaine
Hutchinson Center, Belfast**

Would you like to participate in Citizen Science and help record seasonal changes in natural events, such as flowers blooming, frogs singing, and birds migrating?

Signs of the Seasons volunteers help scientists and resource managers document, understand, and predict changes that affect Maine's environment and economy.

To find out how you can participate, you can register for the volunteer monitor training by emailing esp@maine.edu

or visit www.umaine.edu/signs-of-the-seasons

The training is free, but you need to register so that enough materials can be made.

Sun and Moon in Spring

March 16	Full Moon
March 20	Spring Equinox
April 15	Full Moon
May 14	Full Moon

BBWC Board of Directors

John Langhans, President

Francine Brown, Vice President

Cloe Chunn, Secretary

Debbie Mitchell, Treasurer

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Tom King

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2014 OUTINGS



March 15, Saturday. 10:00-1:00. Join Skip Pendleton for a tour of the various skiing and walking trails he has added as offshoots of the Little River Community Trail. Meet at the kiosk at Walsh Ball Field on Rt. 52. Bring water, lunch, warm layers, and footwear for skiing or snowshoeing. Easy to moderate.

April 12, Saturday. 10:00-3:00. Maine Master Naturalist Jason Chandler will lead us tracking at Meadow Brook Preserve, Swanville. He will instruct us on which natural materials to gather for building a fire in the wilderness, and we will learn how to use a bow drill to make fire. Park at the farm of Cloe Chunn and David Thanhauser, 210 Oak Hill Road, Swanville, at 9:30. Bring water, lunch, warm layers, and appropriate footwear for conditions.

May 10, Saturday. 7:00-10:00 am. Bird walk on Sears Island. Meet at the far end of the Sears Island Causeway in Searsport. Bring water, snack, binoculars. Co-sponsored with Friends of Sears Island.

May 21, Wednesday. 6:30-10:00 am. Bird walk along the Ducktrap River with Kristen Lindquist and Cloe Chunn. Meet at the Ducktrap River Trail on Rt. 52 in Northport. Bring binoculars, water, snack. Wear waterproof boots. Co-sponsored with Coastal Mountains Land Trust.

June 7, Saturday. 10:00-2:00. Paddle the Goose River, Swanville. Meet at Swan Lake dam behind Swan Lake Grocery on Rt. 141 in Swanville. Bring boat, paddle, PFD, water, lunch, sun, rain, and wind gear. If you need (or have extra) space in a canoe, please call 338-1147. Choice of 4 or 7 miles.

***Call 338-1147 with suggestions for outings you would like to see offered.

Calendar of Events

March 14, Fri. Bird Bus, see page 2.

March 15, Sat. Hike or ski with Skip. See left.

March 20, Thur. 5:00 Board meeting

6:30 Natural History Maine Coast, see page 2.

March 25, Tues. Signs of the Seasons training, page 5.

March 27, Thur. FrogWatch training, see p. 5.

March 29, Sat. FrogWatch training, see p. 5.

April 1, Tues. Deadline for applying for Penobscot Bay Stewards program, see pp. 3-4.

April 11, Fri. Bird Bus, see page 2.

Apr. 12, Sat. Tracking and natural fire making. See left.

Apr. 17, Thur., 5:00 Board meeting

6:30 Maine Butterflies, see page 2.

Apr. 29, Tues. First Day of Penobscot Bay Stewards

May 3, Sat. Quest at Head-of-Tide, see page 2.

May 10, Sat. Bird Walk on Sears Island. See left.

May 15, Thur., 5:00 Board meeting

6:30 Program at the Belfast Cohousing and Ecovillage, Coleen O'Connell. See page 2.

May 21, Wed. Bird Walk Ducktrap River. See left.

May 31, Sat. FrogWatch training, see p. 5.

June 7, Sat. Paddle the Goose River. See left.

You are invited to participate

The Belfast Bay Watershed Coalition invites you to help with our mission of exploring and enjoying our watershed, educating others about it, and raising community awareness about issues in our watershed.

Please feel free to attend a program or an outing and see what we are doing. To subscribe to the newsletter on-line, contact Francine Brown at fbrown711@roadrunner.com

Contact information:

Skip Pendleton 338-4427 Cloe Chunn 338-1147

Mission: The Belfast Bay Watershed Coalition is a group of organizations and individuals working to support conservation and stewardship of natural, scenic, historic, and public access resources of the Belfast Bay watershed through research, community-building, and education.